

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

SB 739 – HOSPITAL ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS

In May of 2005, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) “account for an estimated 2 million infections, 88,000 deaths, and \$4.5 billion dollars in excess health-care costs annually.” In Los Angeles County, healthcare-associated infections continue to increase. From 2002 to 2004, there was a 16 percent increase in outbreaks reported in hospitals, as there was the entire year of 2004.

Consumers are increasingly requesting the public release of HAIs information, so they may make better-informed decisions about their healthcare options. However, it would be necessary for changes in State laws on release of information for public disclosure of HAIs (including outbreaks) in a standardized and easily understood form, while continuing to maintain patient confidentiality.

The Department of Health Services is working on a voluntary plan, under current law, pending any changes in statutes. However, changes in State laws are necessary to make information public.

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SB 739
September 20, 2005
Page 2

Senate Bill 739 (Speier) authorizes the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to implement a program to require general acute care hospitals to have a written infection-control program for the surveillance, prevention, and control of infections. SB 739 is essential in reducing healthcare-associated infections.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors support Senate Bill 739 (Speier), with a 5-signature letter to members of the State Assembly.

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MDA:rkrth
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